

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting voice messages from a caller over a network ~~to a receiver~~, said system comprising:

a first access device, ~~said first access device being~~ coupled to a network and to a first communication telecommunication medium, said first access device comprising;

~~wherein said first access device includes a voice~~ encoding ~~conversion device configured to receive for converting a first voice signal received from a first voice device and generate a~~ into digital message data; and

~~wherein said first access device includes a transmission device~~ configured to transmit ~~for transmission of~~ said digital message data through said network;

wherein said transmission device transmits said digital message through said network after said voice encoding device generates said digital message.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said network is the Internet.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting voice messages over a network, said method comprising:

~~transmitting a voice signal from a first voice device at a caller location in a first service area through a first telecommunication medium;~~

receiving a ~~said~~ voice signal by ~~in~~ a first access device;

encoding ~~converting~~ said voice signal into a digital message signal by ~~in~~ said first access device; and

after said step of encoding, transmitting said digital message signal over a network.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

transmitting a voice signal from a first voice device at a caller location in a first service area through a first communication medium to said access device;

wherein said first voice device is a telephone and said first communication telecommunication medium is a telephone line.

6 – 30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said first voice device is a telephone and said first communication telecommunication medium is a telephone line.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a second access device, ~~said second access device being~~ coupled to said network and to a second communication telecommunication medium, said second access device comprising;

~~wherein said second access device includes~~ a receiving device configured to receive ~~for receiving~~ said digital message data from said network; and

a voice decoding device configured to decode said digital message and generate a second voice signal for a second voice device coupled to said second communication medium

~~wherein said second access device includes a storage device for storing said digital data~~

wherein said voice decoding device generates said second voice signal after said receiving device receives said digital message.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32 wherein said second access device further comprises a first storage device capable of storing said digital message

~~includes a retrieving device for retrieving said digital data from said storage device for delivery to a second voice device through said second telecommunication medium.~~

34. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving voice messages from a network sender, said system comprising:

a first access device, ~~said first access device being~~ coupled to a network and to a first communication telecommunication medium, said first access device comprising;

~~wherein said first access device includes a receiving device configured to receive for receiving a digital message data representing a converted voice signal from said network; and~~

~~wherein said first access device includes a storage device for storing said digital data; and~~

~~wherein said first access device includes a voice decoding retrieving device configured to decode for retrieving said digital message data from said storage device and generate a first voice signal for delivery to a first voice device coupled to through said first communication telecommunication medium~~

wherein said voice decoding device generates said first voice signal after said receiving device receives said digital message.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein said network is the Internet.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34 wherein said first voice device is a telephone and said first communication telecommunication medium is a telephone line.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 34 further comprising:

a second access device, ~~said second access device~~ being coupled to said network and to a second communication telecommunication medium, said second access device comprising;

~~wherein said second access device includes a voice~~ encoding ~~conversion device configured to receive for converting a second voice signal received from a second voice device and generate into said digital~~ message data; and

~~wherein said second access device includes a transmission device~~ configured to transmit for transmission of said digital message data through said network;

wherein said transmission device transmits said digital message through said network after said voice encoding device generates said digital message.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said network is the Internet.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

receiving said digital message signal from said network by a second access device;

~~converting said digital signal into data for storage into a storage device; and~~

after said step of receiving, decoding ~~retrieving said digital message data for delivery to a second voice device~~ coupled to at a recipient location in a second service area through a second communication telecommunication medium.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving voice messages from a network, said method comprising:

receiving a digital message signal ~~representing a converted voice signal from~~ said a network by a first access device;

~~converting said digital signal into data for storage into a storage device; and~~

after said step of receiving, decoding ~~retrieving~~ said digital message to generate a first voice signal ~~data~~ for using a first voice device coupled to ~~at a recipient location in a first service area through~~ a first communication ~~telecommunication~~ medium.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said network is the Internet.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 wherein said first voice device is a telephone and said first communication ~~telecommunication~~ medium is a telephone line.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 further comprising:

~~transmitting a voice signal from a second voice device at a caller location in a second service area through a second telecommunication medium;~~

receiving a ~~said~~ voice signal by ~~in~~ a second access device;

encoding ~~converting~~ said voice signal into said digital message signal by ~~in~~ said second access device; and

after said step of encoding, transmitting said digital message signal over said network to said first access device.

44. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said first access device further comprises a first storage device capable of storing said digital message.

45. (New) The system of claim 32 wherein said second voice device is a telephone and said second communication medium is a telephone line.

46. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein said first access device further comprises a second storage device capable of storing said digital message.

47. (New) The system of claim 34 wherein said first access device further comprises a first storage device capable of storing said digital message.

48. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of storing said digital message on a first storage device in said first access device.

49. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of storing said digital message on a first storage device in said second access device.

50. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein said second voice device is a telephone and said second communication medium is a telephone line.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of storing said digital message on a second storage device in said first access device.

52. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of storing said digital message on a first storage device in said first access device.